

**Amendments to Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 19 with the following paragraph:

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X A designated cache system may then utilize the specifications from each cache system to allocate traffic to each cache system. For example, a first cache system may receive data destined for a first port number and a second cache system may receive data destined for a second port number. The designated cache system may be selected in any suitable manner. In one specific implementation, the cache system having the lowest IP address is the designated cache system. The designated cache system may allocate data using any suitable technique so that cache system availability and traffic redirection specifications by such cache systems is taken into account. For example, several techniques for allocating buckets are described in concurrently filed U.S. patent application, having Application No. 09/608,549 (Attorney Docket No. CISC151) entitled METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR SLOW-STARTING A WEB CACHE SYSTEM by Tiwana et al., which application is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. These bucket allocation techniques may be easily modified so that bucket allocation is also based on data redirection specifications from each cache system. That is, bucket allocation and assignment is also based on each cache system's redirection specifications.

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